



YORKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

President: The Countess of Harewood

Vice-presidents: Lady Legard, Peter Goodchild, Nick Lane Fox

www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Stella Spriggs
Principal Planning Officer
Leeds

Chris Webb
Chair
Yorkshire Gardens Trust

18 June 2024

Dear Stella Spriggs

24/01411/FU: Harewood House, Harrogate Road, Harewood, Leeds LS17 9LG; Removal of existing play equipment and siting of new play equipment and associated works, including hard and soft landscaping

Thank you for re-consulting The Gardens Trust (GT) in its role as Statutory Consultee for proposed developments that could affect sites included by Historic England (HE) on their Register of Parks & Gardens. The Yorkshire Gardens Trust (YGT) is a member organisation of GT, works in partnership with it in the protection and conservation of registered sites, and is authorised by GT to respond on GT's behalf in such consultations.

As this is a supplementary response (following our first response dated 20 April 2024) in relation to the welcome further information provided by the applicant, we will not reiterate our statement about the significance of Harewood's registered park and garden, but concentrate only on the proposals we questioned in our first response.

1. Access route to the new play area

We are pleased to see the realignment of the path to take account of the trees in the vacated play area, and are content that this and other actions (reiteration of the no-dig approach, the path following contours as a result of no-dig, the more sensitive path surface) take appropriate care for their continued health.

We are grateful for the information about the width of the path, and confirm that we believe that the width is appropriate for its purpose and in its setting.

We note that there was no historic link between Bakehouse and Stables. We further note that part of the new path's route at the eastern end does follow a historic route; and we agree that its western extension is necessary and unavoidable, following a desire line that focuses visitor journeys on the path rather than on the planted areas adjoining (as at present).

We agree that the aesthetic impact of the path in the wider landscape will be negligible, being protected by the trees, the more appropriate surface treatment, the adjoining planting and the encouragement of visitors to use the path rather than the grassed areas that, in the present iteration, are badly eroded.

2. Planting

The additional *Specification for making good to lawn areas near play equipment* provided by the applicant gives sufficient reassurance that the planting in these areas will be appropriate. The updated *Arboricultural impact assessment* provided by the applicant gives sufficient reassurance that the health of the trees will be protected during construction of the path and new play area, and during their use. Similarly, the *Biodiversity net*

gain statement gives reassurance that the area to be vacated by the outdated play equipment will deliver net gain through improved tree health and through the provision of enhanced grassland habitat.

3. Conclusion

Yorkshire Gardens Trust has no concerns about this proposal. Indeed, we look forward to its positive contribution to the remodelling of this part of the estate.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Webb
Chair, YGT

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